

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

Media Release

HQ-MND Baghdad

Camp Liberty

Baghdad, Iraq

APO AE 09344

Commercial: (914) 822-8174

IRAQNA 011-964-790-192-4675

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE No. 20060613-01

June 13, 2006

3-67 AR Regt. delivers more than 5,000 books to Iraqis

Pfc. Paul David Ondik
506th Inf. Regt. PAO

FOB RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq – To help ensure Iraq's progress and improve education in the country, Soldiers from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, along with battalion civil affairs units, delivered more than 5,000 text books to children of the Al-Jadida School in New Baghdad May 10.

Up until now, available text books were outdated and filled with pro-Saddam propaganda, said Capt. David McCaughrin, officer-in-charge of civil military affairs, 3-67 AR Regt.

The operation was approved by the Iraqi Ministry of Education and was coordinated by battalion civil affairs and the Iraqi District Advisory Council.

These projects build the Iraqi people's trust and confidence in their government, said 1st Lt. Faustino Gonzalez, deputy officer-in-charge of civil military affairs, 3-67 AR.

No school projects are undertaken without approval, said Gonzalez. On most projects the company command informs the civil affairs section of the need for a project in their area of operations. CA proposes the project to battalion command, who signs off on the project. CA then checks in regularly at the work site to see if the project is on schedule or check it out if it's been completed, he said.

"The superintendent of the school had a contact in the United Arab Emirates that was able to get a good price. It was unbeatable," said McCaughrin. "The Army was able to facilitate the transaction, and they delivered the books personally.

"We normally try not to visit when class is in session because we don't want to create much disturbance," continued McCaughrin. "But we definitely are a big hit when we come bearing gifts."

"These missions helping Iraqi schools aren't concentrated in just one area," said Pfc. Erik Meyers, a forward observer with CA, 3-67 AR. The battalion has worked on school projects throughout the entire Tissa Nissan district. The projects can range from delivering school supplies to getting lavatories in working order, he said.

"These kids are glad to get any help they can to further their education," said McCaughrin.